

Serial No. 09/973,477

ELG Docket No. LOU01-001-US

REMARKS

Claims 1, 10, 11 and 15-18 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-7 and 10-25 are pending in the application. It is noted that claims 8 and 9 were cancelled in the Amendment and Request for Reconsideration filed February 25, 2003, and should be listed as cancelled, rather than withdrawn.

Interview Summary

Applicants would like to thank Examiner DeSanto for the helpful telephone discussion with Applicants' representative on May 19, 2005. During this discussion, independent claims 1, 10, 11 and 15 were reviewed with respect to the cited reference, French Patent No. 2757405; and independent claim 16 was reviewed with respect to the formal requirements for a method claim. The amendments listed on pages 2-6 and the remarks below are believed to provide the clarification requested by the Examiner.

Claim Objections

The objection to claims 16-20 as method claims presented without any method steps has been obviated by appropriate amendment. Independent claim 16 has been amended to set forth the phrase "beveling back an external peripheral rim of the hypodermic needle" as a method step. Dependent claims 17 and 18 have been amended to refer back to this beveling process. Applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

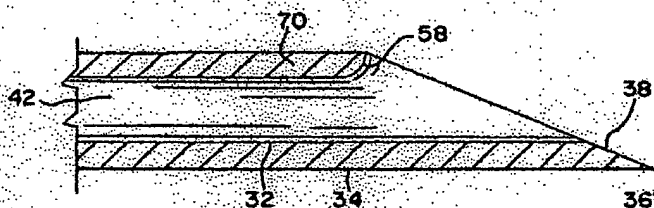
The rejection of claims 1-7 and 10-25 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by French Patent No. 2757405 ('405) has been obviated by appropriate amendment. Independent claims 1, 10, 11 and 15 have been amended to recite

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that the outer or external surface of the hollow tube extends in a straight line to a piercing tip, where the piercing tip is defined by the end of the hollow tube. This is illustrated, for example, in Figure 8 of the application, reproduced below. In this figure, the outer surface 34 of the hollow tube extends in a straight line to piercing tip 36 defined by the end 38 of the hollow tube, and the piercing tip 36 is distinguished from the internal beveled surface 58.

FIG. 8



Claims 1, 10, 11 and 15 have been amended also to recite that the rear half region, in which at least a portion of the internal beveled surface is located, is proximal to the front half region. That is, the rear half region is located in the direction of the cylindrical portion of the hollow tube, whereas the front half region is located in the direction of the piercing tip. Independent claim 16 has been amended to recite that the outer surface of the hollow tube extends to a piercing tip defined by the end of the hollow tube, and that the rear half region is proximal to the front half region.

The '405 patent does not disclose, teach or suggest a hypodermic needle having an outer or external surface extending in a straight line to a piercing tip, where the needle also has an internal beveled surface. The '405 patent also does not disclose, teach or suggest a method of making a hypodermic needle including beveling back an external peripheral rim of the needle. Accordingly, the cited reference cannot anticipate or make obvious claims 1-7 and 10-25. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

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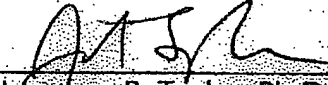
CONCLUSION

All of the grounds raised in the present Office Action for rejecting the application are believed to be overcome or rendered moot based on the amendments and remarks above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in form for allowance, and such action is requested. Should the Examiner feel a discussion would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at (312) 876-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

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